



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 4/30/2003

GAIN Report #BE3023

Belgium-Luxembourg

Fishery Products

Seafood in Belgium

2003

Approved by:

Philip A. Letarte

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Yvan Polet/Morgan A. Perkins

Report Highlights:

Seafood consumption remained stable at 16 kg per person in 2002. The total catch of Belgian fishing vessels continued to fall.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], BE

Belgian Fisheries

In 2002, the 130 Belgian fishing vessels increased catch by 8 percent to 19,455 tons compared to 2001. From this, the port of Zeebrugge received 14,666 tons. Seafood prices decreased 3 percent and total value increased 5 percent to 71.4 million Euros. However, this increase is due to the fact that Belgian vessels landed less fish in foreign ports (- 27 percent). Estimates are that total catch by Belgian vessels decreased 5 percent. Belgian aquaculture produces 1,430 tons of fish.

Belgian fish landings			
Species (in MT)	2000	2001	2002
-sole	3,488	3,724	4,000
-plaice	4,938	4,725	4,441
-cod	1,697	1,634	2,215
-ray	1,135	1,374	1,584
-lemon sole	640	724	824
-whiting	434	444	361
-haddock	256	433	156
-turbot	284	272	281
-monkfish	245	303	318
-dogfish	382	367	429
Total Fish	16,112	16,574	17,958
-shrimps	325	392	266
-crayfish	194	205	161
Total Crustacean	649	709	555
-scallop	255	284	359
-inkfish	461	371	801
Total Mollusks	810	769	1,241
Total Seafood	17,580	18,053	19,455

Source: Flemish Ministry

The Belgian Market

Belgium's per capita seafood consumption was stable at 16 kg in 2002, of which 11 kg was fresh seafood, 2 kg frozen and 3 kg canned seafood. Mussels account for 3.5 kg per person, while cod and salmon remain the main fish species, accounting for 30 percent of total sales.

Imports in 2002 were 213,000 tons of which 17 percent were fresh molluscs, 14 percent crustacean, 13 percent filets, 12 percent whole fish and 17 percent prepared and canned seafood. Total import volumes were down 8.4 percent from 2001. Main import origins are The Netherlands (28 %), Denmark (9%), France (9%), Germany (8%) and Tanzania (7%).